

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01
TRSE-00 /118 W

-----060837 191914Z /45

R 181616Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7184
USICA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

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USICA FOR MEDIA REACTION STAFF

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, MBFR, GE, US
SUBJECT: GDR ANTI-NEUTRON BOMB CAMPAIGN CONTINUES
AT FLANK SPEED

REF: BERLIN 2475

1. THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT DELAYING
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PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF NEUTRON WEAPONS HAS NOT
CAUSED SO MUCH AS A BREAK IN STRIDE IN THE GDR
MEDIA CAMPAIGN ON THE TOPIC OF THE NEUTRON BOMB.
IN GENERAL, THE GDR LINE IS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S
DECISION IS NOT REALLY A DECISION AT ALL, THAT
NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE ON THIS ISSUE HAS CHANGED, AND
THAT THEREFORE "THE PROTEST MOVEMENT MUST GROW

EVEN STRONGER."

2. FOLLOWING THE MOSCOW LEAD, THE EAST GERMAN PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION HAVE STRESSED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCED DECISION DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE DEMANDS OF THEIR CAMPAIGN FOR COMPLETE AND "MUTUAL" RENUNCIATION OF SUCH WEAPONS. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MODERNIZATION OF THE DELIVERY SYSTEMS WILL CONTINUE SO THAT DEPLOYMENT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED SWIFTLY IF A PRODUCTION DECISION IS MADE IN THE FUTURE. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO EAST GERMAN COMMENTATORS, "IT BECOMES PLAIN THAT POSTPONED DOES NOT MEAN CANCELLED" BUT ONLY "THE TEMPORARY DEFERMENT OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON."

3. THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF NEUTRON WEAPON PRODUCTION WILL BE CONTINGENT ON SOVIET RESTRAINT HAS ELICITED THE COMMENT THAT THE "UNITED STATES PLAINLY SUGGESTED THAT IT WANTS TO MAKE THE NEUTRON WEAPON A MEANS OF BARTER OR, PROPERLY SPEAKING, OF BLACKMAILING THE SOVIET UNION." THIS IS DENOUNCED AS "A CONJURING TRICK" IN ORDER TO FORCE THE SOVIET UNION TO REDUCE FORCES IN BEING IN EXCHANGE FOR A US COMMITMENT NOT TO DEPLOY A WEAPON NOT YET PRODUCED. GDR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMENTATORS HAVE INSTEAD FAVORED "A CLEAN DEAL, NAMELY THE MUTUAL RENUNCIATION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON WHICH DOES NOT ENTAIL DISADVANTAGES OR ADVANTAGES TO ANYBODY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER." THE EAST GERMAN MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO STRESS PROTESTS AGAINST THE WEAPON BY VARIOUS GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD AND TO EMPHASIZE THE SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO RENOUNCE PRODUCTION OF THE WEAPON. UNLIKE AN EARLIER PHASE OF THE ANTI-NEUTRON BOMB CAMPAIGN, THE EMBASSY HAS NOT - YET - RECEIVED LETTERS OF PROTEST FROM GDR ORGANIZATIONS ON THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION. BOLEN

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